

Validity of evidence in internet sources checklist

Source reference:

ABC News (2010, July 12). XXXXXX Retrieved March xx, 2007, from www.abc.net.au/news/2010-07-12/sxxxxxxxxxxxxx /901300

Authority	Is the author or host an expert in the field?	Yes	No
	Is the author or organisation clearly identified?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Does the author or organisation have relevant qualifications or experience and recognition?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Is the purpose of the site or publication clearly stated?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you think the evidence found on this site is from an authoritative source?

Yes. The host is a government news agency (although it is unclear who the author is). A dietician and the CSIRO are referred to on the site. The host of the site does not have scientific expertise. However, they report the findings of science experts. Because the site is a news agency for the government they would be careful about publishing facts and checking their sources.

Accuracy	Is the evidence factual?	Yes	No
	Are the sources of the evidence found on the site given?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Does another source agree or support this evidence?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Do you think the evidence found on the site is accurate?

The evidence found on the site appears to be accurate as the source stated is a very reputable science research organisation. The same information was found in the xxx report, published by the CSIRO.

Currency	How up to date is the evidence?
Material first written: 12/07/2007	Site last updated: Daily

Do you think the evidence found on the site is current?

Yes. The material was written very recently, and the site is constantly updated.

Objectivity	Is the evidence biased to persuade the reader?	Yes	No
	Is the evidence presented with a minimum of bias?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Is the organisation hosting the site trying to persuade readers of a certain viewpoint?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Do you think the evidence on this site is unbiased and presented with a balanced viewpoint?

A government news agency should not be influenced by sponsors and would be careful to present just the facts. I think the evidence is unbiased.

Overall rating of the validity of evidence from this source	Valid <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Invalid <input type="checkbox"/>
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Give reasons for your decision.

I believe the site is valid, as it is a government news agency, and does not have a commercial bias to promote xxxx. It states the CSIRO as its source, which is a reputable source of scientific evidence. However, it does have some limitations because it is only reporting ideas and is not a scientific organisation itself.